

Seville Square
Pensacola
Escambia County
Florida

HABS No. FLA-208

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FLA.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

SEVILLE SQUARE

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Location: Seville Square is located in the southeast section of Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida, within the Historical District near Pensacola Bay. It is bounded by South Adams, East Government, South Alcaniz and East Zaragoza Streets.

Present Owner: City of Pensacola

Present Occupant: Leased by Historic Pensacola Preservation Board

Present Use: Public open space and recreation area

Statement of Significance: Seville Square serves as a focal point for the Historical District of Pensacola.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. History: After temporary settlements on Santa Rosa Island and at Fort Barrancas failed, the permanent settlement of Pensacola began in 1752 to the west of the present Seville Square near a wooden block house called Fort San Miguel, built two years earlier. After 1763 the British constructed a new stockade, which occupied the area between the present Plaza Ferdinand and Seville Square. These two open spaces constituted the cleared areas outside the stockade, east and west. After the return of the Spaniards in 1781, the stockade deteriorated. Its blockhouse and its guardhouse, recorded on a map by a Spanish military captain and His Majesty's surveyor general of West Florida, Vincente S. Pintado, who surveyed Pensacola in 1813, were demolished in the 1820's.

The 1813 map also indicates that there were other public buildings located near the open space, designated "Sevilla," and included the hospital, which was sited at Main and Adams Streets. The hospital was recorded by Andrew Jackson in his 1818 inventory of Pensacola's public buildings.

The southwest corner of Alcaniz and Intendencia Streets was the site of the Spanish Calaboza which had been built by the British in the 1770's and was used by the Spanish from 1781 until 1821. That brick structure held the last Spanish governor, Callava, when he was jailed by Andrew Jackson. A two-story stuccoed brick jail with two cells on the first floor and jailer's quarters on the second floor was built around 1835 and was demolished around the turn of this century.

Within the vicinity of the intersection of Church and Barracks Streets are the sites of the British barracks, the Spanish governor's mansion, the Tivoli Dance Hall, and the Tivoli Highhouse.

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B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: County Court Records, Clerk of Courts Office, Escambia County Court House, Pensacola, Florida.
2. Secondary and published sources: "Walking Tour of the Historic District;" Carter, Territorial Papers, Vol. XXII.

Prepared by Rodd L. Wheaton
Architect, HABS
1972

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Site and Surroundings: Seville Square extends approximately 190 feet east-west on East Zaragoza and Government Streets and 310 feet north-south on South Adams and Alcaniz Streets. To the west facing the square on Adams Street is Old Christ Church (HABS No. FLA-146) built in 1832, which is the oldest church in northwest Florida. Though it was altered in 1879 with a new apse and tower, the brick structure is substantially intact. In 1903 the Episcopal congregation vacated the building. It was used by a Negro congregation, then abandoned and eventually was converted to a public library, in 1936. In 1960 the Pensacola Historical Museum moved into the building. Around the Civil War and during Pensacola's lumber boom numerous houses were erected around the square. Most survive today including the Theodore Moreno House (HABS No. FLA-202) and the Dorr House (HABS No. FLA-209).

Though the design of the square is formal with diagonal concrete walks extending from each corner and meeting at the center, the planting and street furniture is informal. Concrete sidewalks separate the square from grassed parking strips along the street right-of-ways. Cast iron lamp posts, each with two simulated gas lamps on brackets, are located on the square as well as a modern raised steel and wood pavilion near East Government Street. The pavilion is square in plan and has wrought iron balustrades and an octagonal roof with wood shingles. There are wrought iron benches and modern play ground equipment including swings, a jungle gym, a merry-go-round, and a basket ball court. Two cast iron water fountains are marked "Murdoch Cincinnati, Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. July 20, 1916." Three flat staffs face East Government Street. A wood sign at the northwest corner identifies the area as Seville Square.

In addition to the center planting area at the crossing of the diagonal walks, the landscape material includes grass ground cover, live oak, cabbage palms, and miscellaneous ornamental shrubbery. HABS
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An archeological team, employed by the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board in 1968, located the 1'-7" high brick foundation walls of the British Guardhouse, which are approximately 34'-8" square in plan. Laid in English bond, this ruin is in the southwest corner of the square and extends into South Adams Street. 17-PENSA
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Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, AIA
HABS--Pensacola
July 17, 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project, sponsored by the Pensacola Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, now known as the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board of Trustees, in cooperation with the Historic American Buildings Survey, was recorded during the summer of 1968 in Pensacola under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS; Professor F. Blair Reeves, AIA (University of Florida), Project Supervisor; and Student Assistant Architects John O. Crosby (University of Florida), David L. Van de Ven, Jr. (Texas Technological College), and Edward Bondi, Jr. (University of Florida). The historical information was prepared by Professor Samuel Proctor (University of Florida), by Assistant Historian Linda V. Ellsworth (Historic Pensacola Preservation Board), and by Rodd L. Wheaton (Architect, HABS) who edited all the data in 1972.